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MONDAY
JUNE 14, 1954

André de Staercke came to the office this morning. I told him of the telegram [redacted] yesterday from the Secretary authorizing me to go ahead and take the necessary steps to coordinate the proposed meeting of the four nations, to be attended as well by the Americans and British. Foster said the most convenient time for him would be June 30 and July 1. Spaak is in Geneva, but [redacted] expected back in Brussels tomorrow night, so tentatively we have arranged to go there on Wednesday afternoon.

Tommy and I had lunch at the Marigny Restaurant and talked over what must be done in connection with the telegram from Washington which reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEe DATE 7-1-81
XDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA 61 101 EXEMPTIONS

"FROM: WASHINGTON.

"ACTION: PARIS EDCOL 122, June 12, 3 PM.

"SENT PARIS EDCOL 122 RPTD INFO LONDON 6785 BONN 352 GENEVA TEDUL 193.

"I have heard with interest Merchant's report of Ambassador's meeting in London, particularly recommendation proceed with message from President to Coty and foreign ministers meeting under Article 132 of EDC treaty along lines my conversation with Spaak in Geneva (DULTE 28 April 29). On assumption fall of Laniel will not result in new elections, I believe we should push ahead promptly but quietly to develop this scenario. I suggest Bruce let Spaak know of our approval in principle and Aldrich should inform British, subject to Bruce's determination timing of these approaches. Believe Bruce should bear in mind importance of getting British agreement in principle, including, if possible, idea of message from Churchill, before Spaak gets too far out on limb.

"In meantime, we will urgently consider here best form of message from President to Coty. For this purpose we need Bruce and Dillon's comments on text of note given in DEPTEL 4131 May 18, which, modified to take form of Presidential message, seems more suitable for present purpose than text in

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DEPTEL 4408 June 4.

"Timing proposed conference of 6 difficult from point of view my schedule even assuming meeting would last only 1 day or 2 at most. June 30-July 1 look possible now but it would be virtually out of the question for me to accept an earlier date. Any later feasible date would run toward middle July as I am now thinking in terms Montevideo conference opening July 5. DULLES."

Tommy also told me something of the inside story of the debts of Laniel's brother, the Senator. He has suffered [redacted] heavy losses, and the rumor is current that some of his operations were fraudulent. Margaret Biddle had recounted certain details on this subject to me last night which she had had from one of his creditor banks. He will probably be asked to resign his Council of the Republic seat, and it is commonly thought his actions had some influence in the recent vote against his brother.

Volney Hurd, of the Christian Science Monitor, came to see me this afternoon. After eight or nine years in France, he has come to the conclusion that the French are incapable of exercising political leadership in Europe and are destined to be nothing more than a little power. In the light of that conclusion, he thinks the United States Government should revise its policy and relegate France to a secondary position.

I attended the Directing Committee meeting of the EDC at the Palais de Chaillot at 4:00 o'clock. It lasted until 7:30, chiefly because of the inability of the French and Germans to agree upon the procedure for the signing of the protocols. The French take one view of the meaning of the German Constitution and the Germans take another. De Staercke has been trying to effect a compromise, and the language proposed by him and by Van Starkenborgh is to be referred by the French and Germans to their respective Governments.

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The Schoenbruns came to dinner with us tonight. This is the first time I have seen David since his return from Indo-China. He draws a gloomy picture of what has lately occurred there -- Navarre and Cogny (Schoenbrun has a good opinion of the abilities of the latter) making no bones about their dislike for each other and the opposition of their policies. Dejean, the French High Commissioner, whom David thinks a splendid public servant, has been recalled. In his opinion, the wisest man on the spot is Bob McClintock of our Embassy. He also believes, and has been saying so in his radio broadcasts, that President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles have made a series of blunders in their public statements on Indo-China. As for the EDC, he does not believe Bidault and Laniel ever intended to have it brought to a vote. All in all, he could scarcely be classed as an optimist on the French situation.

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